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1	Chief, D/E		
2	Chief, D/R		
3	Chief, D/P 25X1A9a	<i>[Signature]</i>	28 Jun 57
4	return to [redacted] pls		
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Replaces Form 30-4
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : CIR/NIS - Mr. Daniel Clinton

DATE: January 18, 1957

FROM : CIR/DRS - Stephen Peters

related to staff study
"Need for and Use of NIS"
dated 16 Nov 56

SUBJECT: Reaction To NIS Papers in the Field

This refers to our recent conversation on the reaction to the NIS papers in the field and to your request for additional information on the subject.

As I indicated in the report on my field trip, I made an attempt at all the posts I visited -- Rome, Belgrade, Bucharest, Athens, Istanbul, and Paris -- to find out what use, if any, was being made in the field of these papers. My discussions were confined chiefly with political reporting officers, particularly second secretaries, except in Bucharest where all the Legation's officers participated at one time or another in all the talks I had dealing with the use they made of all CIR products. As far as I recall, at no time was a particular NIS section mentioned, although in Rome, where August Valletti was assigned as the officer in charge of all NIS problems, I suggested to Bartley P. Gordon, a First Secretary of the Embassy responsible for peripheral reporting, that the NIS political sections on Bulgaria and Albania could be very useful to him for background material on those two countries.

My general impression was that those officers who were most critical of the NIS papers were the least acquainted with their contents. The three officers I talked to in Rome on the subject seemed to be fairly familiar with the whole project and their principal complaint was that the classification was too high and therefore not easily accessible. They also felt that it was bulky and the style somewhat difficult. Incidentally, a former NIS man in CIR who is now in Rome, in response to my question as to whether he would like to be reassigned to CIR, declared that he would be delighted to come back here provided he was not assigned to NIS work. He claimed that the numerous editors made that assignment an endlessly frustrating experience. The other three former CIR men I met in the field did not wish to return to the R area at all.

In Athens, which came after Rome in its knowledge of the NIS project, and the only post where I saw an officer actually using an NIS political section, the principal complaint was again its classification, as well as the fact that most chapters were too bulky and out of date.

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In Paris, aside from the classification, the format of the NIS sections was mentioned by one of the political officers as being a deterrent to their being used more frequently. The officers had in mind the size of the paper, not the printing. They suggested that the various chapters be printed in book form, although they were aware of the fact that the various sections of each chapter are prepared at different times.

In Belgrade and Bucharest, aside from a general negative attitude toward the whole project probably because of lack of time to read or otherwise utilize them, no specific complaints were voiced. Because of the necessity for stringent security measures, it was difficult to get at the NIS papers at these two posts. In Istanbul, the principal complaint, voiced of two political officers, was the "formal and difficult" style of the papers.

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cc: DES - Mr. Wilcox

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